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Letter dated 27 October 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 27 October 1994, addressed to you by H.E. Mr. Osman Ertuğ, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 51, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) İnal BATU
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 27 October 1994 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 20 October 1994 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative (A/49/561-S/1994/1192). The letter, among other things, contains allegations regarding "violations of the airspace of the Republic of Cyprus".

In response to these oft-repeated allegations of the Greek Cypriot side, I wish to reiterate at the outset that the airspace over Northern Cyprus is under the control and jurisdiction of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, and the Greek Cypriot usurpers of the seat of government have no right of say over who will use this airspace and how, with the full knowledge and consent of the State. Complaints such as those contained in the said letter are, therefore, designed purely for propaganda purposes and in order to divert attention from the recent augmentation of the militarization efforts in southern Cyprus; the Greek Cypriot side's holding of joint military exercises with Greece in the context of the "joint military doctrine", as well as its provocative and hostile activities at home and abroad.

In this connection, I wish to refer to my previous letter dated 8 August 1994 (A/48/981-S/1994/953), in which the militarization campaign of the Greek Cypriot side and its political implications are dealt with in greater detail. It is regrettable that alarming new developments have taken place since that time involving the actual implementation of the Greek-Greek Cypriot "joint military doctrine" and other destructive activities detrimental to the negotiating process.

1. In the first week of this month, full-scale military exercises were carried out jointly between Greece and the Greek Cypriot administration, in which Greek Air Force bombers and F-16 fighters as well as the Greek Navy also took part. The exercises, code-named "Nikiforos-94", which were described by the Greek Ambassador in southern Cyprus as "the actual implementation of the joint military doctrine", caused public exhilaration and an outpour of chauvinistic sentiments in the south, while they were viewed with concern on the Turkish Cypriot side as new evidence of potential Greek Cypriot adventurism.

2. On the heels of these exercises, plans were announced to boost significantly the active strength of the Greek Cypriot "National Guard" by adding no less than 5,000 new personnel to its ranks, including mercenaries from Greece and other countries. The announcement was made by no lesser a person than the Defence Minister of Greece, Mr. Yerasimos Arsenis, who indicated that the hiring of professional soldiers would start before the end of the year pending relevant legislation in the Greek Cypriot House of Representatives, and boastfully declared "Cyprus will soon be part of the strong defence chain of Hellenism" (see the Greek newspaper Apoyevmatini of 11 October 1994).

3. On 16 October 1994, Greek Cypriots staged demonstrations in the Güzelyurt (Morphou) area and violated the buffer zone. Another violation of the buffer zone took place on 23 October 1994 in the Haspolat area, on the outskirts of Nicosia. Evidence is abundant that the demonstrators were provoked by the Greek Cypriot leadership.

In a message he sent to the first demonstration as reported on Greek Cypriot public radio on 16 October 1994, Mr. Glafcos Clerides, the Greek Cypriot leader, made a dramatic confession by stating "in the present conditions, we are not ready to make peace. Everybody should know this".

The second incident was attended by Mr. Adamos Adamides, the Greek Cypriot Communications Minister, who openly provoked the demonstrators to enter into the buffer zone. Both Mr. Clerides and Mr. Alexis Ghalanos, the Greek Cypriot House President, sent messages to the demonstration, at which anti-Turkish slogans were uttered.

4. Outside Cyprus, the Greek Cypriot administration has continued its anti-Turkish rhetoric and efforts to tighten the inhuman embargo it has imposed on Northern Cyprus and its people. At a time when the ill effects of the ban on Turkish Cypriot exports through the decision of the European Court of Justice are still weighing heavily on both the Turkish Cypriot economy and the confidence-building measures process in Cyprus, the Greek Cypriot press is reporting that the Greek Cypriot side is preparing another application to the European Court of Justice, this time to ban the use and promotion of hotels and tourist establishments in Northern Cyprus (see Greek Cypriot daily Fileleftheros of 1 October 1994).

Earlier this month, the Greek Cypriot side attempted to exploit the Plenipotentiary Conference of the Interactional Telecommunication Union (ITU) held in Kyoto, Japan, between 19 September and 14 October 1994 in order to cut off the telecommunications links of Northern Cyprus with the outside world. There are reports that the Greek Cypriot side is also endeavouring to put a ban on air flights to Northern Cyprus, through representations with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

The devastating effects on the prospects for confidence-building and overall solution of these hostile activities, which have assumed the proportions of an all-out international campaign against the people of Northern Cyprus, are so clear as to require no elaboration. Coming, as they did, at a time when the two leaders were about to meet in Cyprus in order to find a way out of the current impasse, created by the Greek Cypriot side itself, they attest to the lack of sincerity on the part of the Greek Cypriot side in so far as confidence-building and a negotiated solution are concerned. It is earnestly hoped that such hostile activity will cease and its negative effects will be reversed in the interest of the successful outcome of the continuing dialogue between the two leaders in Cyprus.

I shall be grateful if the present letter is circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 51, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus